Cancel Claim 34 and combine the subject matter of Claim 34 with Claim 35. The amended Claim 35 appears below and the amendments are indicated on the appendix attached hereto.

35. (amended) A method for imaging a section of a medium which receives and returns light from the section and from sites adjacent to the section, said method comprising the steps of:

directing light in beams of different polarization in said medium along an imaging plane inside the medium;

collecting returned light from the medium;

generating an image of the section from said returned light in response to a polarization parameter of said returned light; and

wherein said beams are overlapping in said medium outside the image section to reduce the part of said returned light from the sites adjacent said section on opposite sides of said section in the direction of propagation of said beams.

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected Claims 29-38 as anticipated by Koester (U.S. Patent No. 4,241,257). It is respectfully submitted that Koester does not describe or suggest the invention as set forth in the amended claims. The Examiner will understand that Koester describes a sectional microscope where sectional images are produced by spatial filtering. The spatial filters separate the illumination light from the detection light. The spatial filters force the illuminating light to follow a different path than the light that returns from the medium (see the paragraph beginning on line 17, in column 1 of Koester as well as other discussions of the separation throughout the specification).

Koester does not understand or teach anything about the enhancement of a reflected image by reducing the influence of the reflected or returned light from sites adjacent to the section of the medium being imaged where the illumination and detection overlap in the medium. In order for the effect of these sites to be reduced and the image enhanced, overlapping is provided with the optics of the imaging system and in accordance with the method practiced by that system as set forth in Claims 30 (for the system) and Claim 35 (for the method).